

Belle Farm
Near Ordinary
Virginia.

HABS No. VA-69

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Richmond, Va.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Major Eugene Bradbury, District Officer
210 East Franklin St., Richmond, Va.

VA
27-0921

BELLE FARM
Near Ordinary, Gloucester County, Virginia

Owner: Heirs of Nellie Taylor Greaves

Date of Erection: Wing late 17th or 18th centuries, main house mid 18th century.

Architect: unknown

Builder: unknown

Present Condition: Demolished, removed to Williamsburg, but as yet unrebuilt.

Materials of Construction: Frame, brick basement.

Other Existing Records: Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture.

Additional Data: Belle Farm was an early example of the pediment type house probably inspired by Nelson House at Yorktown, though the pediment was spanned the long way of the house rather than the short. The wing had a mansard roof. The interior had excellent woodwork, especially the left-hand room. This had a frontespiece type mantel flanked by pilasters and arches. The facing of the fireplace was gauged brick. The landscape layout survives and is very impressive. The forecourt is roughly divided into four parts, in the center of each stands a gigantic oak. Between the trees is an allee of cedars which break into a semi-circle in front of the mansion site, then turn at right angles to the approach and form two rows perpendicular that bound the rear of the forecourt and screen the farm buildings. Behind the mansion site was a walk of dwarfed box across the main axis. This boxwood has now been removed to Williamsburg. Parallel to this walk and some distance back is a double row of giant box which is now grown together to form a covered allee. There are remains of crape myrtle and japonicas which indicate a walk of viscidious growth on the main axis connecting the two cross walks.

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